

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice.

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1 12. (currently amended) A method for limiting the operational life of software
2 in a network environment, the method comprising:

3 ~~providing~~ transmitting a program applet with a password
4 embedded therewithin from a server computer to a ~~client-computer~~ computer, via
5 a network, the password having a limited operational life;

6 receiving by the server computer, from said program applet at the
7 client computer, via said ~~network~~ network, (i) a request for information stored in a
8 restricted access storage area of ~~a~~ the server computer, and (ii);

9 ~~automatically receiving by the server computer, from said~~
10 ~~program applet at the client computer, said embedded password without manual~~
11 ~~entry of the password by a user, for authentication, whenever said receiving~~
12 ~~occurs;~~

13 authenticating said embedded password by the server computer
14 ~~and not by the program applet~~, whenever said receiving occurs;

15 thereafter providing transmitting said information from the server
16 computer, to said program applet at the client computer, via said ~~network~~
17 network, while said embedded password is valid; and

18 invalidating said embedded password by the server computer,
19 coincident with an invalidation event.

1 13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password at a predetermined
3 time.

1 14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password after lapse of a
3 predetermined time from when said request was received.

1 15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password upon the detection
3 of a loss of communication with said client.

1 16. (canceled)

1 17. (canceled)

1 18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 ~~providing-transmitting a program applet~~ comprises generating said embedded
3 password.

1 27. (currently amended) A network-based software authentication system
2 comprising a server computer, the server computer comprising:

3 a password generator;
4 password validation apparatus;
5 a restricted-access storage area;
6 a program applet; and
7 invalidation apparatus;

8 wherein said server computer is operative to:

9 a) cause said password generator to generate a password, the
10 password having a limited operational life;

11 b) embed said password within said program applet, and ~~provide~~
12 transmit said program applet with said password embedded therewithin to a client
13 computer via a network;

14 c) receive from said program applet at the client computer, (i) a
15 request for information-and, and (ii), whenever information requested is stored in
16 ~~the restricted-access storage area, automatically receive~~ said embedded password;
17 ~~from said program applet via said network, for authentication, without manual~~
18 ~~entry of the password by a user;~~

19 d) authenticate said embedded password using said password
20 validation apparatus ~~and not by said program applet~~, whenever information
21 requested is stored in the restricted-access storage area;

22 e) ~~provide-transmit~~ said information to said program applet at the
23 client computer, via said ~~network~~ network, while said embedded password is
24 valid; and

25 f) invalidate said embedded password using said invalidation
26 apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

1 28. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

1 29. (previously presented) A system according to claim 27 wherein said
2 invalidation event comprises the lapsing of a predetermined time from when said
3 request was received.

1 30. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1 31. (canceled)

1 32. (canceled)

1 33. (canceled)